

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method comprising:
traversing a schedule with a bus master, the schedule having a plurality of elements, each element having information pertaining to one of a plurality of endpoints;
executing transactions on a bus in accordance with the information pertaining to the plurality of endpoints;
counting flow control events issued by individual endpoints; and
skipping elements in the traversal of the schedule, the elements being skipped corresponding to endpoints which have issued a threshold number of flow control events.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
stopping traversal of the schedule by the bus master;
resetting a flow control event counter for at least one endpoint to an initial value; and
restarting traversal of the schedule by the bus master.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
marking an element as a head of the schedule;
stopping traversal of the schedule by the bus master if, after marking an element as the head, the bus master completely traverses the schedule without executing any transactions; and
restarting traversal of the schedule by the bus master.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 further comprising:
resetting a flow control event counter for at least one endpoint to an initial value.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
stopping traversal of the schedule by the bus master after all endpoints have issued the threshold number of flow control events; and
restarting traversal of the schedule by the bus master.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 further comprising:
resetting a flow control event counter for at least one endpoint to an initial value.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein traversal of the schedule by the bus master is restarted after an adjustable amount of time.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein traversal of the schedule by the bus master is restarted after a fixed amount of time.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the fixed amount of time is ten microseconds.
10. (Original) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:
traversing a schedule with a bus master, the schedule having a plurality of elements, each element having information pertaining to one of a plurality of endpoints;
executing transactions on a bus in accordance with the information pertaining to the plurality of endpoints;
counting flow control events issued by individual endpoints; and
skipping elements in the traversal of the schedule, the elements being skipped corresponding to endpoints which have issued a threshold number of flow control events.
11. (Original) The machine-readable medium of Claim 10 which causes the machine to perform further operations comprising:
stopping traversal of the schedule by the bus master;
resetting a flow control event counter for at least one endpoint to an initial value; and
restarting traversal of the schedule by the bus master.
12. (Original) The machine-readable medium of Claim 10 which causes the machine to perform further operations comprising:
marking an element as a head of the schedule;

stopping traversal of the schedule by the bus master if, after marking an element as the head, the bus master completely traverses the schedule without executing any transactions; and restarting traversal of the schedule by the bus master.

13. (Original) The machine-readable medium of Claim 12 which causes the machine to perform further operations comprising:

resetting a flow control event counter for at least one endpoint to an initial value.

14. (Original) The machine-readable medium of Claim 10 which causes the machine to perform further operations comprising:

stopping traversal of the schedule by the bus master after all endpoints have issued the threshold number of flow control events; and

restarting traversal of the schedule by the bus master.

15. (Original) The machine-readable medium of Claim 14 which causes the machine to perform a further operation comprising:

resetting a flow control event counter for at least one endpoint to an initial value.

16. (Original) The machine-readable medium of Claim 14 wherein traversal of the schedule by the bus master is restarted after an adjustable amount of time.

17. (Original) The machine-readable medium of Claim 14 wherein traversal of the schedule by the bus master is restarted after a fixed amount of time.

18. (Original) The machine-readable medium of Claim 17 wherein the fixed amount of time is ten microseconds.

19. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a bus master to control transactions on a bus;

a schedule to contain information about a plurality of endpoints, the endpoints to be coupled to the bus; and

a counter to count flow control events issued by at least one of the plurality of endpoints, such that the bus master suspends service to an endpoint which has issued a threshold number of flow control events.

20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein the counter counts in a linear fashion.

21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein the counter counts in a circular fashion.

22. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein the schedule includes a circular linked list of elements, each element to contain information about a particular endpoint.

23. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein the schedule includes an array of elements, each element to contain information about a particular endpoint.

24. (Original) A system comprising:
a processor;
memory coupled to the processor;
a bus coupled to the processor and to the memory;
a bus master to control transactions on the bus;
at least one endpoint coupled to the bus;
a schedule to contain information about the at least one endpoint coupled to the bus; and
a counter to count flow control events issued by the at least one endpoint, such that the bus master suspends service to an endpoint which has issued a threshold number of flow control events.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein the counter counts in a linear fashion.

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein the counter counts in a circular fashion.

27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein the schedule includes a circular linked list of elements, each element to contain information about a particular endpoint.

28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein the schedule includes an array of elements, each element to contain information about a particular endpoint.